WALT DISNEY
LE STRABILIANTI IMPRESE DI
FANTÔMIUS
-LADRO GENTILUOMO-
London, 1916, Quackett Manor...
As I've already said a hundred times, my son left on a trip to study the world's great architecture!
IP-3142-2
He can't just vanish into nothing! This is the twentieth century, not the tenth!
HOWARD QUACKETT
THE TIMES
SCOMPARSO
Any word of our son?
Not a peep! I've spoken with all my international acquaintances and payed a crowd of investigators...
CLUNK
...yet there's still no trace of Henry! But I won't give up!
We need to tell John!

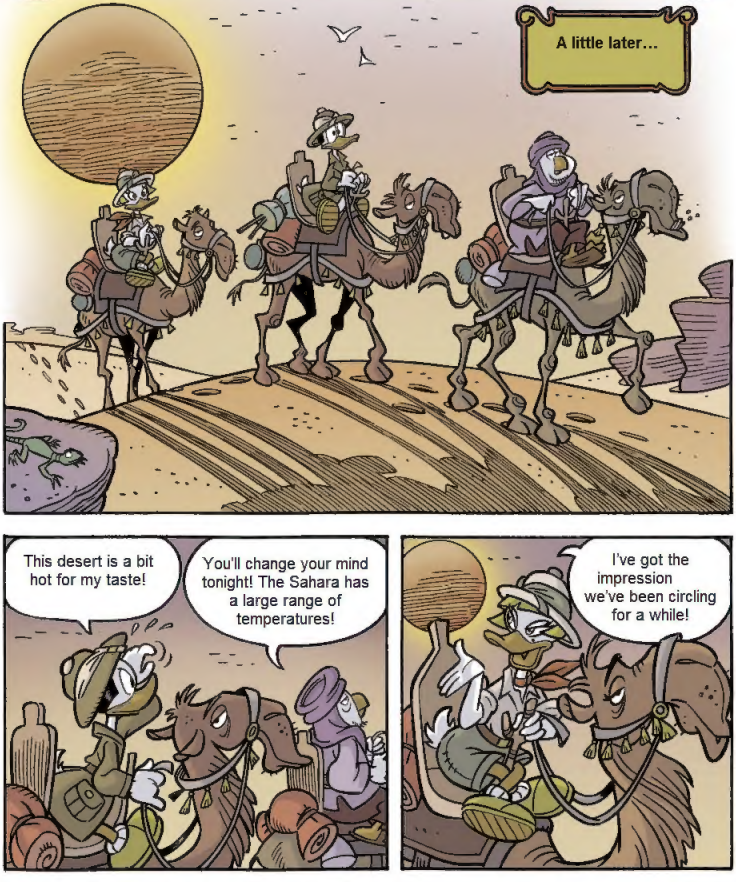
Soggetto, sceneggiatura e disegni di **Marco Gervasio**

Egypt, six years later...
Here we are in Cairo!
How will we find our silver mine?
Behind the mask of Lord Quackett, the clumsy good-for-nothing aristocrat, lies Fantomius, the famous gentleman thief, whose diary set off the birth of Paperinik!
With the map we found in the vase we stole from the Tutanquackmon exhibit at the museum!*
*See "LA MALEDIZIONE DEL FARAONE" (TOPOLINO N. 3036)
It says the Mine is in a place called Blad-El-Khouf in the Sahara Desert, but not where that is!
Then let's find someone who can show us the way!
EGYPT
Excuse me, would you happen to know how to get to Blad-El-Khouf?

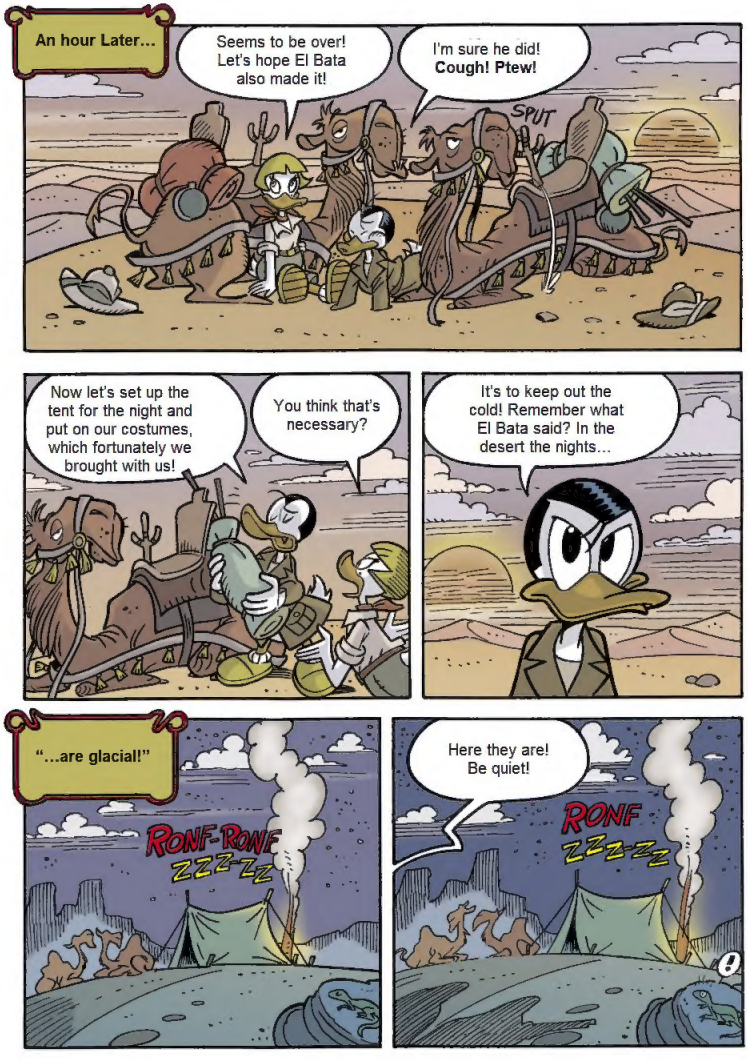
ZOOOW
Strange reaction! Clearly, he's not much of a social person!
Let's ask the fellow seated over there!
Excuse me, good man, could you point me in the direction of **Blad-El-Khouf?**
!!!
SLAM
CLACK!
CLACK!
???
Apparently we scared him...
You're mistaken, effendi!
It wasn't you that frightened him, but the place you wanted to go!
And why is that?

Blad-El-Khouf means "country of fear"!
Why that name?
It's a mysterious area of the desert, where people vanish into thin air!
Bah! The usual superstitions found all over the world!
!
Whatever you say, effendi! But you won't find anyone willing to travel with you!
Not even for a hefty payment?
SWISH
Ehm... Well, in that case...
So, you know someone who can lead us to our destination?
$ $ $ $ $ $
Right in front of you, effendi! My name is El Bata, and I'm a guide!
Well El Bata, when can we get going?
We just need the time to gather necessary provisions and our little **méharée*** can set off!
*A méharée is a small caravan using Mehara camels

Fantomius d'Egitto

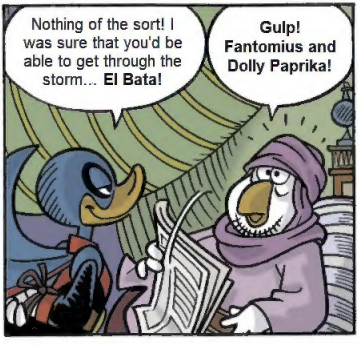

A little later...
This desert is a bit hot for my taste!
You'll change your mind tonight! The Sahara has a large range of temperatures!
I've got the impression we've been circling for a while!

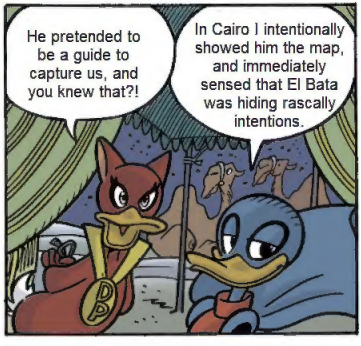
SWOOOOSH
What's going on?
The simoom!*
*The hot wind from the west that can pick up suddenly, creating sandstorms!
I can't see anything anymore! Not even the guide!
We should find an elevated area!
Let's take cover behind a dune!
No! The wind could pick up large amounts of sand and bury us in an instant!
Let's sit the camels down and take shelter by their sides! They're used to sandstorms!

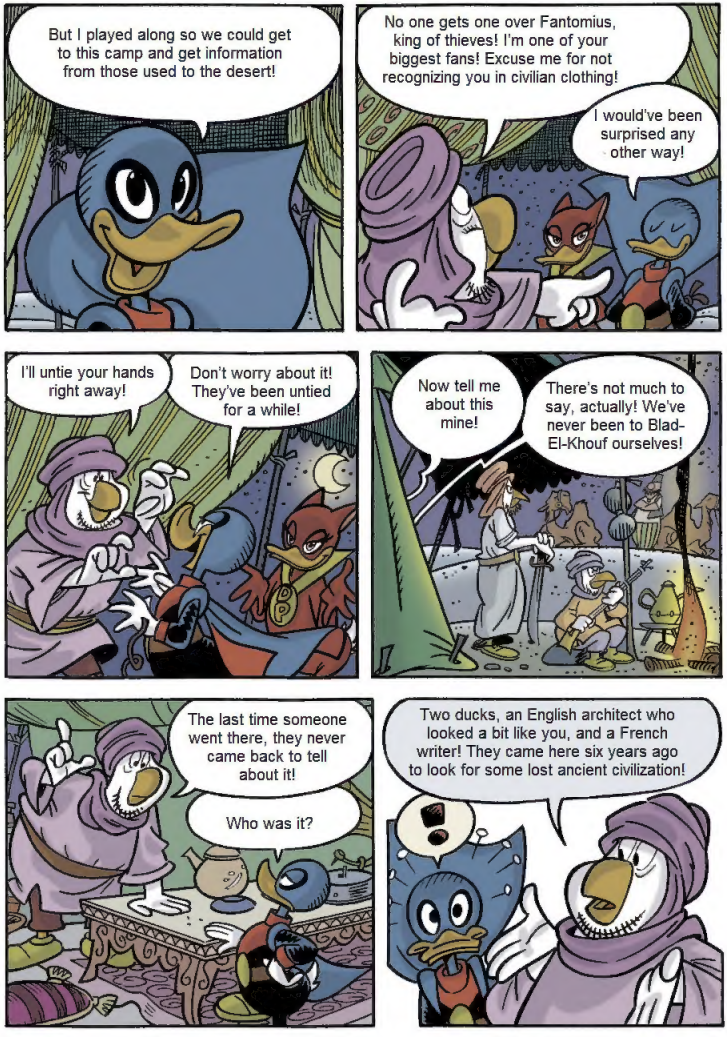

An hour Later...
Seems to be over! Let's hope El Bata also made it!
I'm sure he did! **Cough! Ptew!**
SPUT
Now let's set up the tent for the night and put on our costumes, which fortunately we brought with us!
You think that's necessary?
It's to keep out the cold! Remember what El Bata said? In the desert the nights...
"...are glacial!"
RONF-RONF ZZZ-ZZ
Here they are! Be quiet!
RONF ZZZ-ZZ

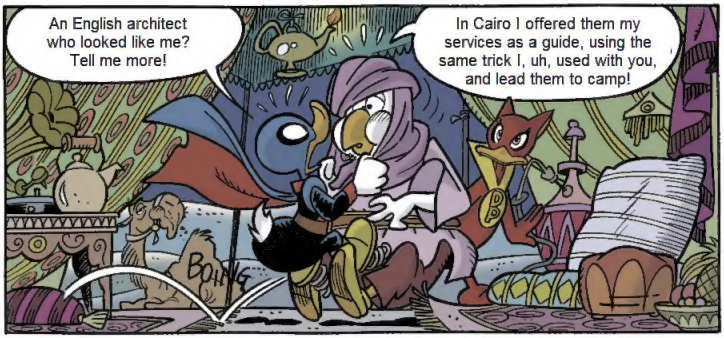
Wake up! Follow us, and don't make a fuss!
Gulp! Bandits!
It's alright, dear! Let's just go along with them!
Hee, hee!

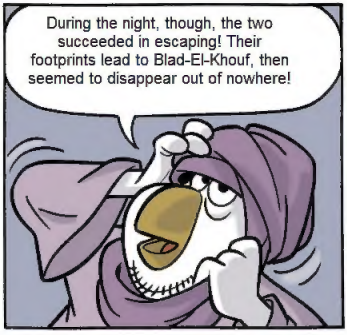
A little later, in the bandits' camp...
Here are the two ducks, boss!
You'll be surprised to see me!


Nothing of the sort! I was sure that you'd be able to get through the storm... El Bata!
Gulp! Fantomius and Dolly Paprika!


He pretended to be a guide to capture us, and you knew that?!
In Cairo I intentionally showed him the map, and immediately sensed that El Bata was hiding rascally intentions.

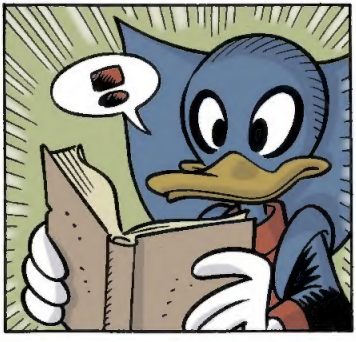

But I played along so we could get to this camp and get information from those used to the desert!
No one gets one over Fantomius, king of thieves! I'm one of your biggest fans! Excuse me for not recognizing you in civilian clothing!
I would've been surprised any other way!
I'll untie your hands right away!
Don't worry about it! They've been untied for a while!
Now tell me about this mine!
There's not much to say, actually! We've never been to Blad-El-Khouf ourselves!
The last time someone went there, they never came back to tell about it!
Who was it?
Two ducks, an English architect who looked a bit like you, and a French writer! They came here six years ago to look for some lost ancient civilization!

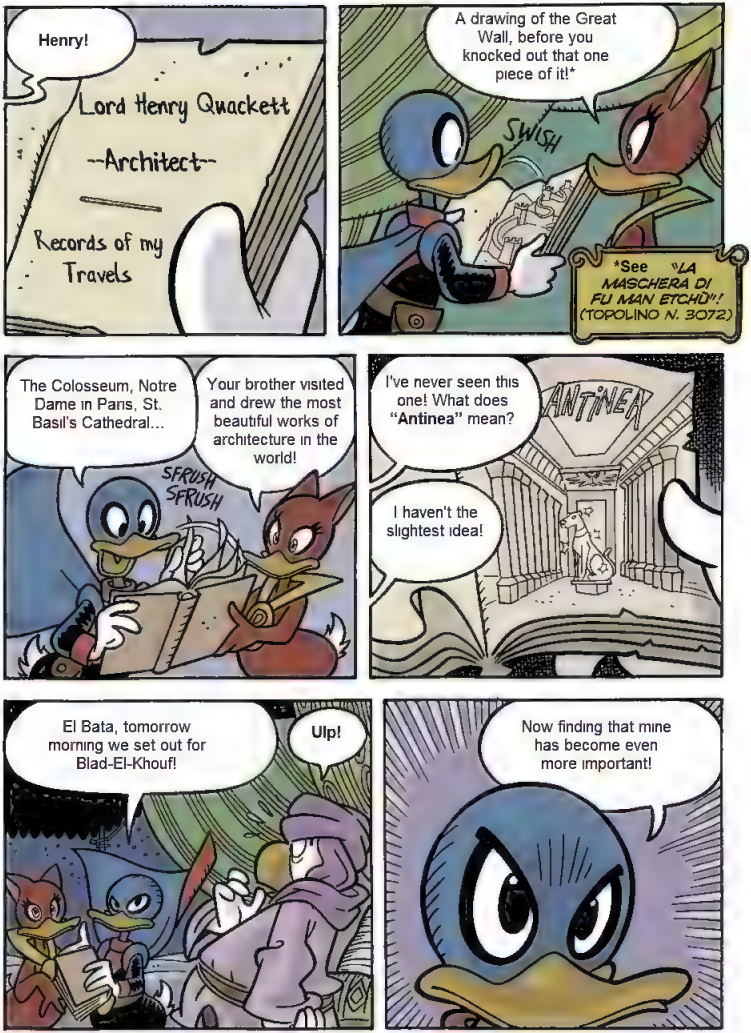

An English architect who looked like me? Tell me more!
In Cairo I offered them my services as a guide, using the same trick I, uh, used with you, and lead them to camp!
BOING


During the night, though, the two succeeded in escaping! Their footprints lead to Blad-El-Khouf, then seemed to disappear out of nowhere!

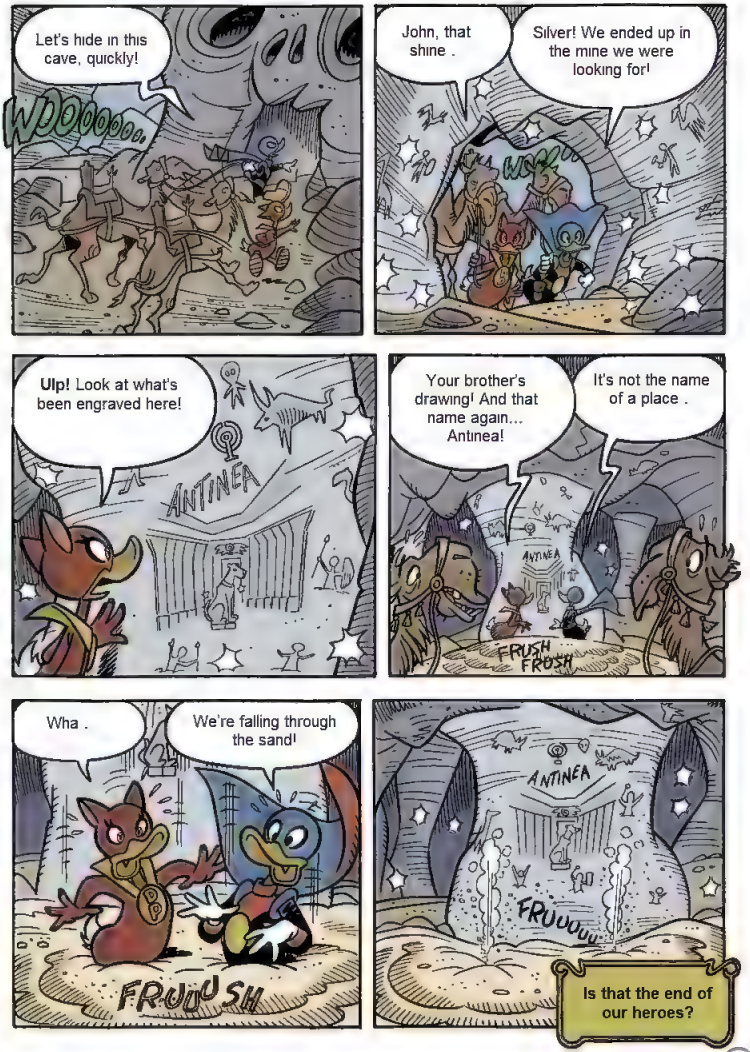
If you're interested, I still have the bag the Englishman left in his escape!
Of course I'm interested!

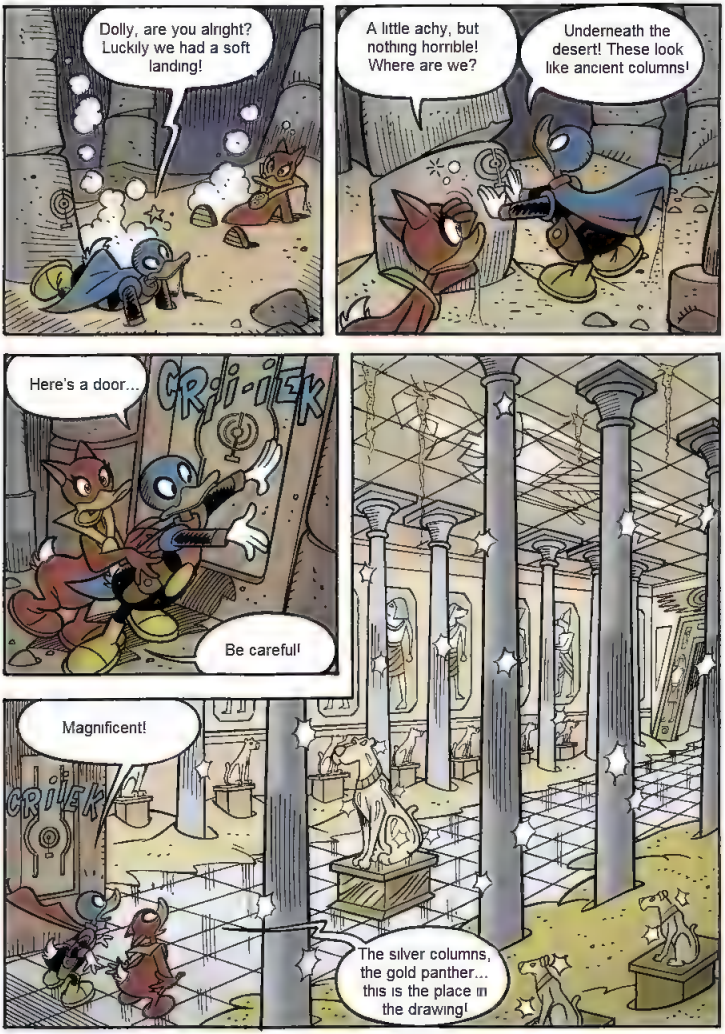
It had a notebook and some pounds sterling! Now, it's just the notebook!

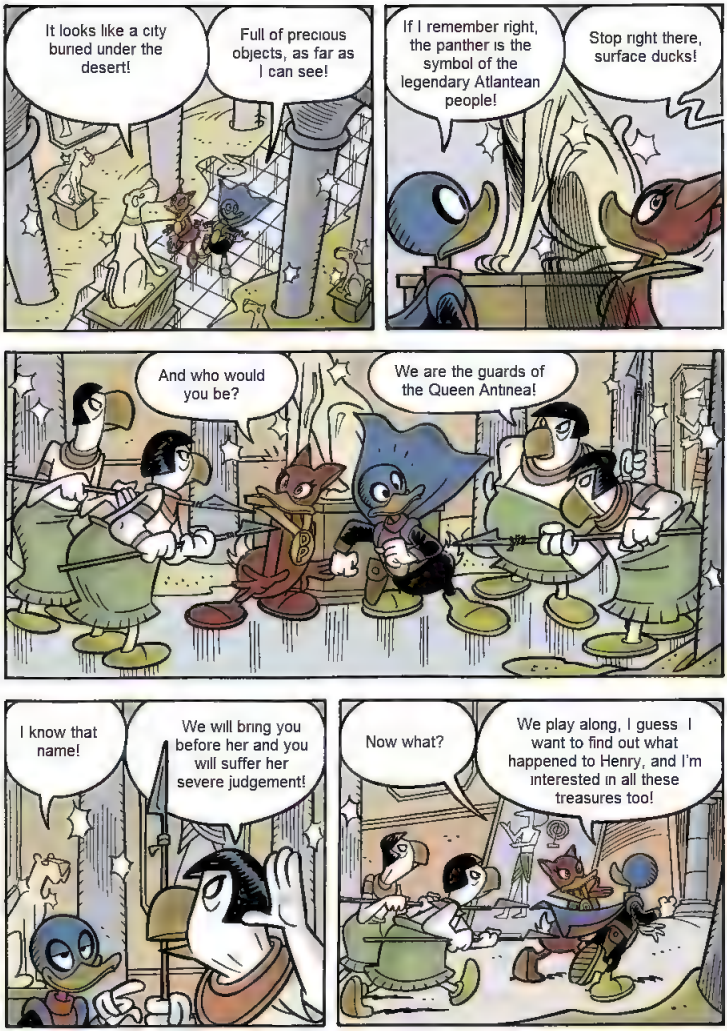



Henry!
Lord Henry Quackett
--Architect--
Records of my Travels
A drawing of the Great Wall, before you knocked out that one piece of it!*
SWISH
*See "LA MASCHERA DI FU MAN ETCHÙ"! (TOPOLINO N. 3072)
The Colosseum, Notre Dame in Paris, St. Basil's Cathedral...
Your brother visited and drew the most beautiful works of architecture in the world!
SFRUSH SFRUSH
I've never seen this one! What does "Antinea" mean?
ANTINEA
I haven't the slightest idea!
El Bata, tomorrow morning we set out for Blad-El-Khouf!
Ulp!
Now finding that mine has become even more important!

The next morning...
Blad-El-Khouf begins here, and this is where I stop. I don't dare go farther!
Alright! We'll continue alone!
Haz saeed!*
*Good Luck!
What are we looking for?
On Tutanquackmon's map, there's a drawing of rock formation in the shape of a skull!
SWOOOOSH
Another sandstorm!
The simoom again?
No, it's coming from the south! It's the khamsin!
This desert has more winds than grains of sand!
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP


Let's hide in this cave, quickly!
WOOOOOOO
John, that shine .
Silver! We ended up in the mine we were looking for!
Wow!
Ulp! Look at what's been engraved here!
ANTINEA
Your brother's drawing! And that name again... Antinea!
It's not the name of a place .
ANTINEA
FRUSH FRUSH
Wha .
We're falling through the sand!
FRUUUSH
ANTINEA
FRUUUUU
Is that the end of our heroes?

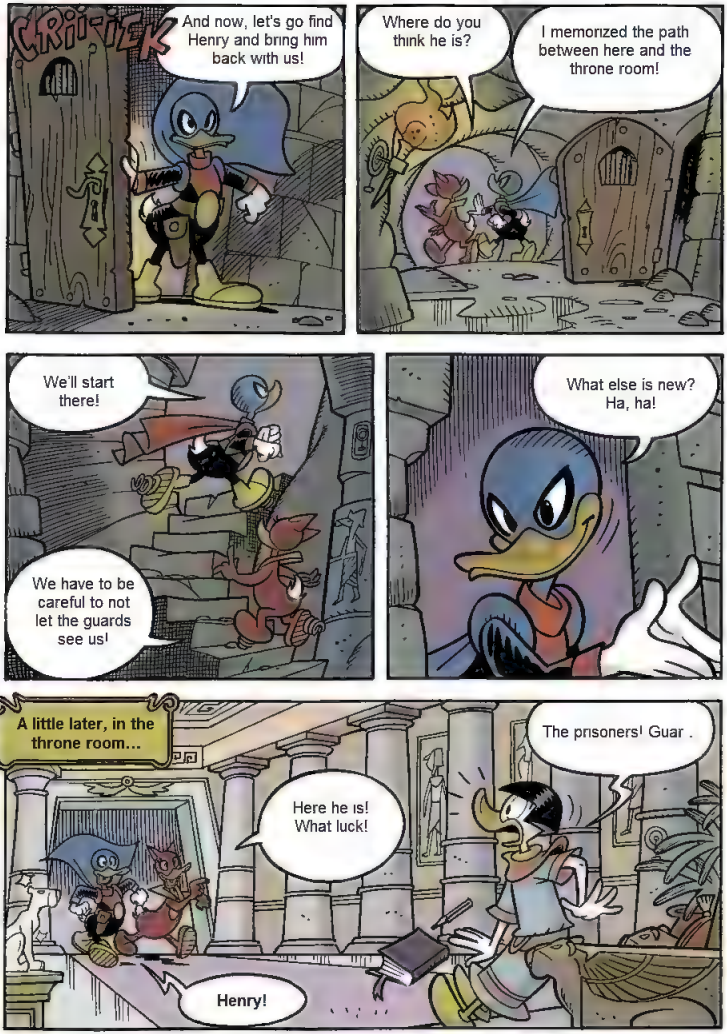

Dolly, are you alright? Luckily we had a soft landing!
A little achy, but nothing horrible! Where are we?
Underneath the desert! These look like ancient columns!
Here's a door...
CRrji-iEK
Be careful!
Magnificent!
CRiEK
The silver columns, the gold panther... this is the place in the drawing!

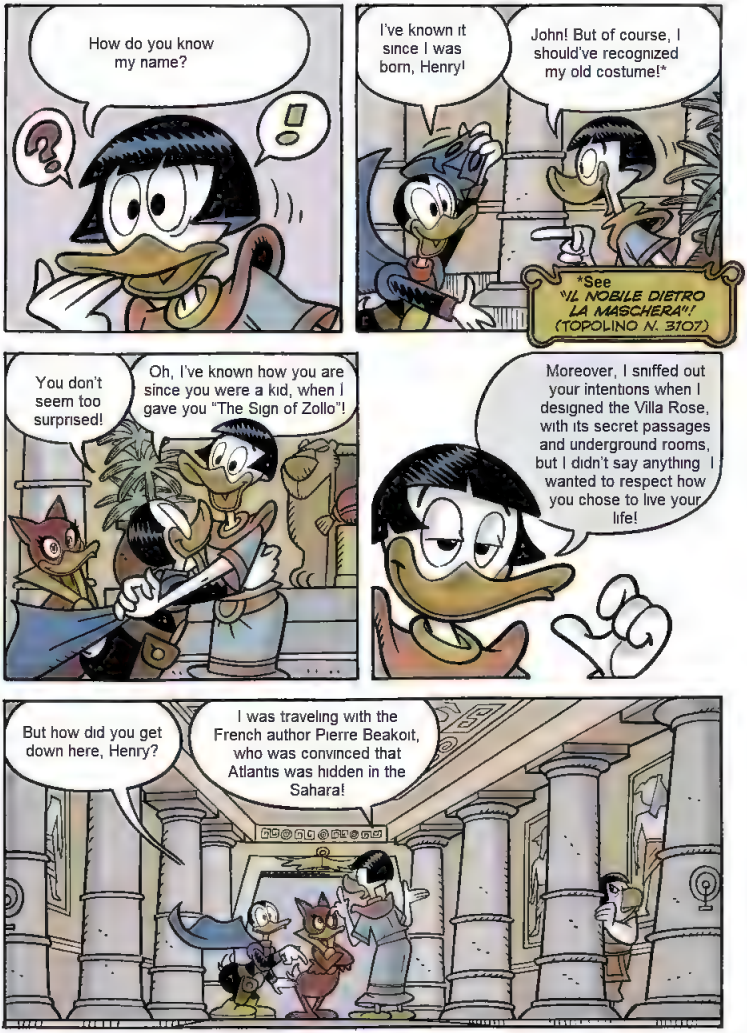

It looks like a city buried under the desert!
Full of precious objects, as far as I can see!
If I remember right, the panther is the symbol of the legendary Atlantean people!
Stop right there, surface ducks!
And who would you be?
We are the guards of the Queen Antinea!
I know that name!
We will bring you before her and you will suffer her severe judgement!
Now what?
We play along, I guess I want to find out what happened to Henry, and I'm interested in all these treasures too!

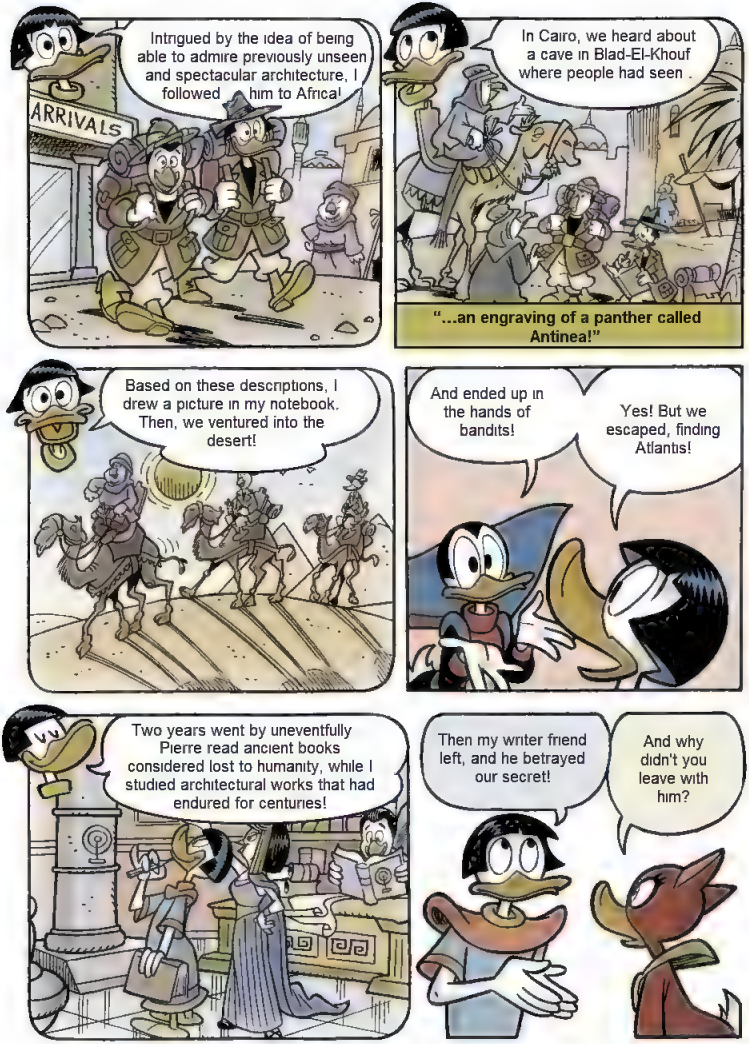
Soon After...
The person next to the queen is .
Henry!
He doesn't look like a prisoner!
Yeah! But it seems worrying to me!
Welcome to Atlantis, surface ducks!
Atlantis, the submerged civilization!
The panthers, I knew it!

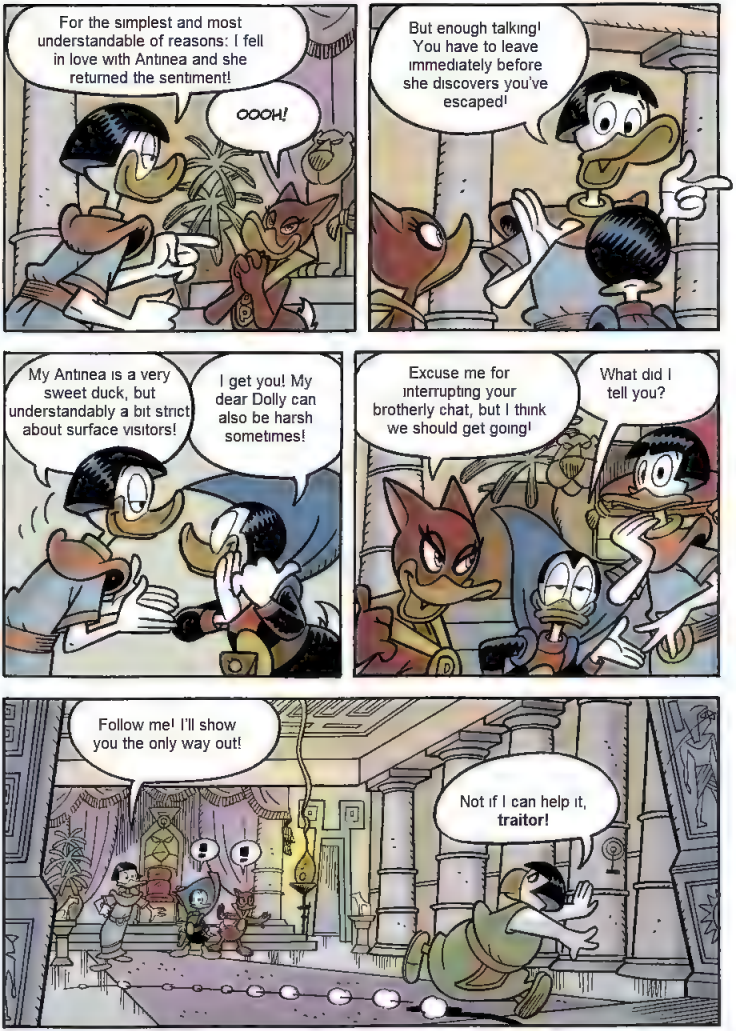
Everyone has always believed Atlantis to have been submerged in water, but truthfully, it was submerged in sand!
A long time ago, new land emerged from the ocean, the sea became desert, and sand hid the beautiful island's splendor!
But underground, our civilization survived, and now you must stay here forever, so it remains undiscovered and protected!
We know how to keep **secrets!**
Your words don't count! Several years ago, a French writer, who arrived here with me, left and promised not to reveal anything!
Instead, he wrote a book! Fortunately, it was considered only a fragment of his **imagination!**
Um... How does he know that if they've all been stuck underground?

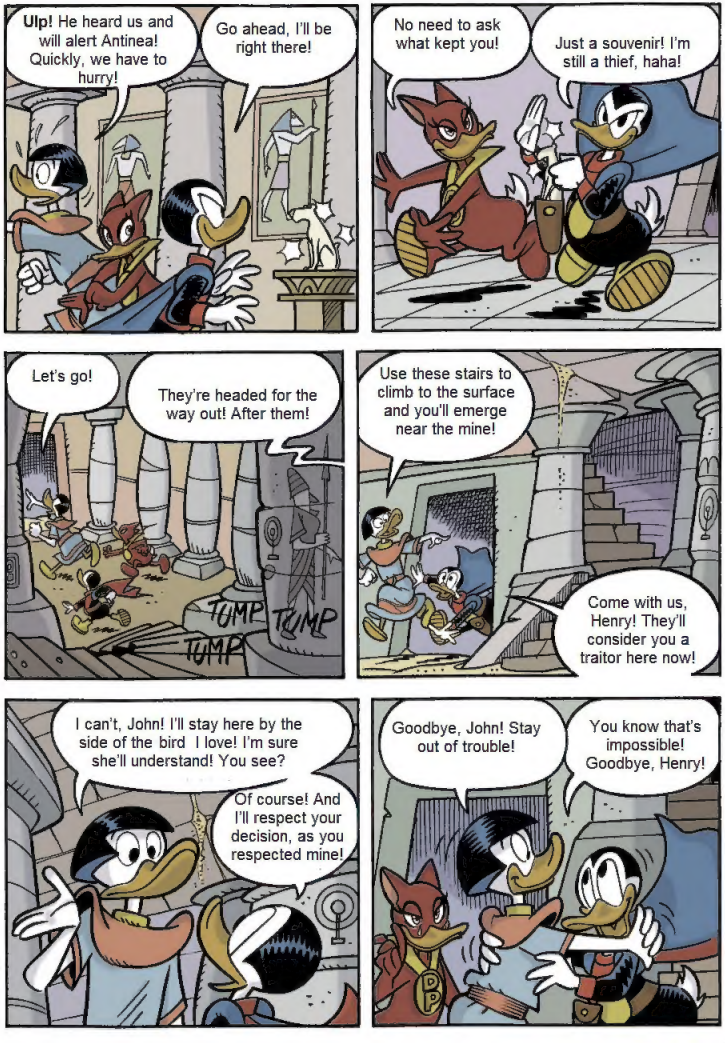
So, do you agree to serve Her Majesty Queen Antinea for eternity?
Gladly, but unfortunately I don't have the wardrobe necessary for such a long period of time with me!
Do you dare taunt the sovereign of Atlantis, descendant of Neptune?
Just a little humor to break the ice, Your Majesty!
Lock them up! We'll see if they keep laughing then!
So...
Your brother really seems to be one of them! What do we do now?
TLAC
First of all, escape! No cell can hold the gentleman thief!

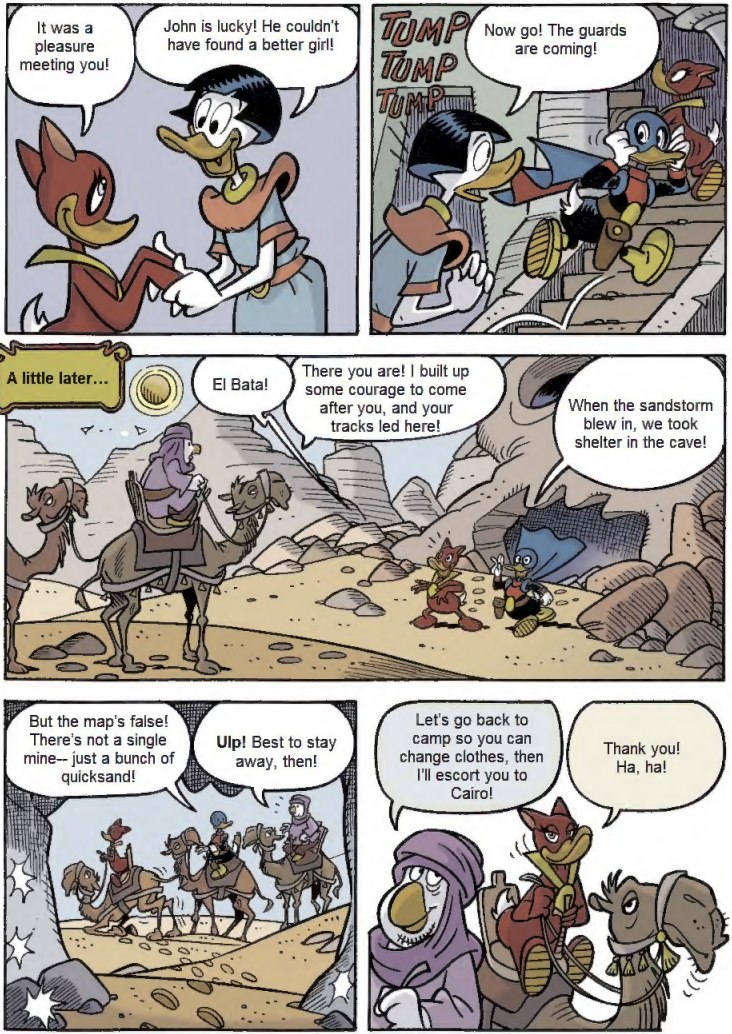

CRRI-ICK
And now, let's go find Henry and bring him back with us!
Where do you think he is?
I memorized the path between here and the throne room!
We'll start there!
We have to be careful to not let the guards see us!
What else is new? Ha, ha!
A little later, in the throne room...
The prisoners! Guar .
Here he is! What luck!
Henry!


How do you know my name?
I've known it since I was born, Henry!
John! But of course, I should've recognized my old costume!*
*See "IL NOBILE DIETRO LA MASCHERA"! (TOPOLINO N. 3107)
You don't seem too surprised!
Oh, I've known how you are since you were a kid, when I gave you "The Sign of Zollo"!
Moreover, I sniffed out your intentions when I designed the Villa Rose, with its secret passages and underground rooms, but I didn't say anything I wanted to respect how you chose to live your life!
But how did you get down here, Henry?
I was traveling with the French author Pierre Beakoit, who was convinced that Atlantis was hidden in the Sahara!

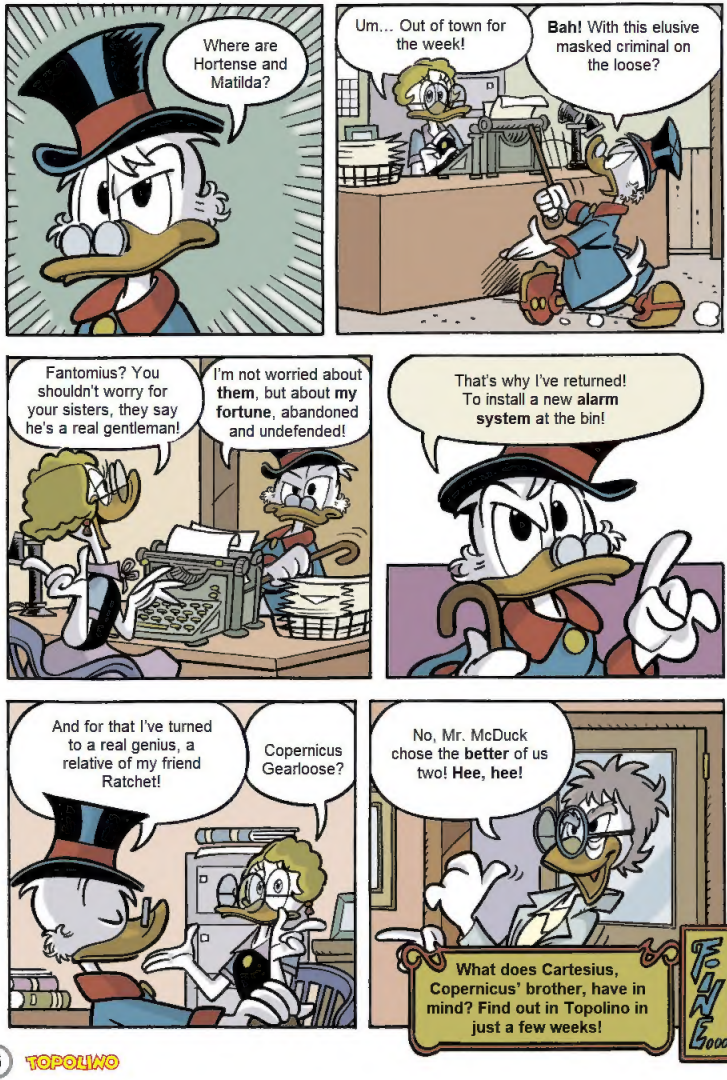

Intrigued by the idea of being able to admire previously unseen and spectacular architecture, I followed him to Africa!
ARRIVALS
In Cairo, we heard about a cave in Blad-El-Khouf where people had seen .
"...an engraving of a panther called Antinea!"
Based on these descriptions, I drew a picture in my notebook. Then, we ventured into the desert!
And ended up in the hands of bandits!
Yes! But we escaped, finding Atlantis!
Two years went by uneventfully Pierre read ancient books considered lost to humanity, while I studied architectural works that had endured for centuries!
Then my writer friend left, and he betrayed our secret!
And why didn't you leave with him?


For the simplest and most understandable of reasons: I fell in love with Antinea and she returned the sentiment!
OOOH!
But enough talking! You have to leave immediately before she discovers you've escaped!
My Antinea is a very sweet duck, but understandably a bit strict about surface visitors!
I get you! My dear Dolly can also be harsh sometimes!
Excuse me for interrupting your brotherly chat, but I think we should get going!
What did I tell you?
Follow me! I'll show you the only way out!
Not if I can help it, traitor!


Ulp! He heard us and will alert Antinea! Quickly, we have to hurry!
Go ahead, I'll be right there!
No need to ask what kept you!
Just a souvenir! I'm still a thief, haha!
Let's go!
They're headed for the way out! After them!
TUMP
TUMP
TUMP
Use these stairs to climb to the surface and you'll emerge near the mine!
Come with us, Henry! They'll consider you a traitor here now!
I can't, John! I'll stay here by the side of the bird I love! I'm sure she'll understand! You see?
Of course! And I'll respect your decision, as you respected mine!
Goodbye, John! Stay out of trouble!
You know that's impossible! Goodbye, Henry!


It was a pleasure meeting you!
John is lucky! He couldn't have found a better girl!
TUMP TUMP TUMP
Now go! The guards are coming!
A little later...
El Bata!
There you are! I built up some courage to come after you, and your tracks led here!
When the sandstorm blew in, we took shelter in the cave!
But the map's false! There's not a single mine-- just a bunch of quicksand!
Ulp! Best to stay away, then!
Let's go back to camp so you can change clothes, then I'll escort you to Cairo!
Thank you! Ha, ha!

And so...
Say hi to Antinea for me and send news of my brother!
!
H-how did you know that I...
The Atlanteans know about the outside world, so they must have **someone** acting as their eyes and ears above ground!
Who better than you, who can so easily navigate the desert?
I should've expected it!
It's impossible to get one over Fantomius!
Ha, ha!
In Duckburg...
Ms. Quackfaster!
Ulp! W-welcome back, sir! We didn't know you were coming!
No one needs to know!


Where are Hortense and Matilda?
Um... Out of town for the week!
Bah! With this elusive masked criminal on the loose?
Fantomius? You shouldn't worry for your sisters, they say he's a real gentleman!
I'm not worried about them, but about my fortune, abandoned and undefended!
That's why I've returned! To install a new alarm system at the bin!
And for that I've turned to a real genius, a relative of my friend Ratchet!
Copernicus Gearloose?
No, Mr. McDuck chose the better of us two! Hee, hee!
What does Cartesius, Copernicus' brother, have in mind? Find out in Topolino in just a few weeks!
FINE